AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Replace the paragraph beginning at Page 10, Line 7 with the following new paragraph:

Inasmuch as the distance between the first universal joint 24 of the second universal joint shaft 2 is shorter than the distance between the first universal joint 3 of the first universal joint shaft 1 and the coupling sleeve 10, the two first universal joints 3, 24 are arranged so as to be axially offset relative to one another. This means that the universal joint shafts 1, 2 can be arranged so as to be radially closer to one another because the tube portions of the shafts 1, 2 occupy a smaller diameter than the first universal joints 3, 24. However, especially in the case of the first shaft 1, there exists a problem in that, due to the long cantilever arm resulting from the long distance between the first universal joint 3 and the coupling sleeve 10, there is generated an out-of-balance situation because there exists a radial play between the coupling sleeve 10 and the journal 11 in order to permit assembly. Due to the weight of the first universal joint shaft 1, the connecting pipe 8 may become ~~is~~ tilted downwardly relative to a longitudinal axis 29 of the journal 11, so that the center of gravity is displaced.

Replace the paragraph beginning at Page 11, Line 10 with the following new paragraph:

In the region of the opening 34 of the receiving bore 33, a ring 44 is inserted into the receiving bore 33, which ring 44 includes a cylindrical bore 45 through which the journal 35 is guided and is radially supported by a cylindrical outer face 46. As shown in Fig. 2, the cylindrical bore 45 begins at the opening 34 of the receiving bore 33 and extends completely throughout the entire axial length of the ring 44. The ring 44 is secured by bolted connections 47 to the coupling sleeve 31. The journal 35 is thus supported at its free end via the centering projection 38 and at its end facing the roll via a cylindrical outer face 46 against the coupling sleeve 31, thus ensuring a defined support of the journal 35. Due to the pressure force of the spring 23 of the plunging unit 20 provided in the connecting shaft 5, a constant pressure is applied to the coupling sleeve 31 towards the roll so that the centering ring 39 is firmly pressed onto the centering projection 38. Radial play is thus avoided. It is thus ensured that

the longitudinal axis of the journal 35 and the longitudinal axis 32 of the coupling sleeve 31 are positioned on one another as accurately as possible so that out-of-balance conditions cannot occur.